(b) whether it is a fact that this matter has been under discussion since 1986; and

(c) if so, what is the status thereof at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Like Maharashtra, various other States have also been making representations to the Central Government from time to time for declaring new National Highways. However, on account of financial stringency and other priority considerations, new National Highways eould not be declared in a number of States including Maharashtra. Even during the 8th Plan, due to meagre allocation of funds, it may be difficult to add new roads to the National Highway network unless the allotments for Central Sector Road Programme are augmented at the stage of mid-term review of the Plan.

By-Pass on National Highway No. 7 at Jabalpur

460. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far in connection with the projected construction of a bypass on National Highway No. 7 at Jabalpur (MP);

(b) what was the original estimated cost thereof and the cost escalation, if any, due - to the delay in implementation thereof; and

(c) the details of fatal and other serious accidents reported on the section of this Highway within Jabalpur during 1991 and 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Out of 22.5 Kms length of Jabalpur Bypass, construction of the first 5.9 Km section constituting the high level acquaduct-cum-road-bridge across Narmada River at Tilwaraghat and its approaches, sanctioned in 1984-85 for Rs. 4.23 crores, has been in progress and is likely to be completed by June, 1993. The estimate for the construction of the remaining length of 16.6 Kms has been sanctioned in September, 1992 for Rs. 12.03 crores and implementation of this portion is yet to start.

(b)' Total cost of the project as sanctioned is Rs. 16.26 crores. Escalation in cost will be known after the bypass has been completed and revised estimates prepared.

(c) As reported by the State Government, 24 fatal and 6 serious accidents took place within Jabalpur during 1991 and 1992.

Private Investment in Road Building and Construction Activities

461. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 2-days Fourth National Seminar on Road Research and its utilisation was held in Delhi around September 20, 19)2.

(b) whether the question of private investment in road building and